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Letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué issued this 28 March 2017 by the Office of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo concerning the good offices mission of the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo (CENCO), as well as the involvement of the Head of State, from this point on, in the implementation of the Agreement of 31 December 2016 (New Year's Eve agreement) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué from the Office of the President of the Republic

This Tuesday, 28 March 2017, His Excellency the President of the Republic, Head of State, received a delegation from the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo (CENCO), led by its President, Monsignor Marcel Utembi, Archbishop of Kisangani.

CENCO confirmed to His Excellency the President of the Republic the end of the good offices mission entrusted to it in Kingakati on 29 October 2016 and extended in Kinshasa on 5 December of the same year.

CENCO had been charged by the Head of State with the mission of achieving greater inclusiveness in implementing the agreement concerning the organization of credible, transparent and peaceful elections, signed on 18 October 2016 at the Cité de l'Union Africaine.

His Excellency the President of the Republic thanked CENCO for the enormous efforts it had undertaken in frequently difficult circumstances.

The talks held at the Kinshasa Inter-diocesan Centre enabled fruitful dialogue and resulted in the signing of the Agreement of 31 December 2016 (New Year's Eve agreement).

However, in spite of the efforts of all parties, the special arrangement that was intended to supplement the agreement that had been reached foundered on two major differences.

The divisive issues were the method for the appointment of the Prime Minister, and the affiliation and selection by consensus of the person who will preside over the Conseil national de suivi de l'accord, following the death of Mr. Étienne Tshisekedi wa Mulumba, chair of the Conseil des sages of the Rassemblement.

His Excellency the President observed that CENCO did not merely take note of the divisive issues, it also made suggestions in that connection which have formed the basis for the involvement from this point on of the Head of State.

His Excellency the President of the Republic believes that the current impasse absolutely must not mean a definitive end to the dialogue. On the contrary, dialogue must be pursued in order to ensure that the most suitable means of effectively implementing what has become known as the New Year's Eve agreement are found as quickly as possible.

Therefore, the Head of State has taken note of the fact that the Prime Minister should come from the opposition that did not sign the agreement of 18 October 2016, and, more precisely, from the Rassemblement.

With regard to the leadership of the Conseil national de suivi de l'accord, the President of the Republic is calling on the relevant parties to nominate a person by consensus.

The President of the Republic, in his role as guarantor of the proper functioning of national institutions, is due to address the nation soon, through the two chambers of Parliament, in accordance with article 77 of the Constitution.

Office of the President of the Republic
On behalf of the Chief of Staff
Jean-Pierre **Kambila Kankwende Wa Mpunga**
Deputy Chief of Staff